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Civiletti Heard Secrets on Billy Back in April

By Gregory Gordon
United Press International

Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti received super-secret intelligence reports in April that Billy Carter had received money from the Libyan government, reliable Justice Department sources said last night.

Civiletti was bound not to use the information and merely considered it guidance that the department's long-dormant probe of the president's brother should not be closed.

Department sources acknowledged that Joel Lisker, chief investigator in the Billy Carter affair, did not learn of the intelligence information until June—but said it was so sensitive it never could have been used as evidence in a criminal prosecution or civil suit.

Lisker told reporters last week that he finally learned from "three or four different sources" between May 30 and June 11 that Billy Carter had accepted \$220,000 from the Libyan government, leading to the filing of the July 14 consent decree under which he agreed to register as a Libyan agent.

"The attorney general received a report in April about some intelligence that indicated there may have been payments to Billy Carter," a department source told United Press International.

The source said Civiletti went to Philip Heymann, chief of the department's Criminal Division who oversaw the investigation, and—without divulging the source or the nature of the intelligence—in effect told Heymann: "Do not close this investigation. See if we can verify this information by other sources."

Sources said there was little lag between Civiletti's receiving the information and his going to Heymann. It could not be learned whether Heymann referred the information to any of his subordinates or otherwise tipped investigators to the evidence that Billy Carter had accepted money.

Sources said the intelligence information was passed directly to Civiletti from a spy agency, which was not identified, and there was no indication that the sensitive material was passed to the White House.

Civiletti was on a golf course in Honolulu, attending the American Bar Association's annual convention, and could not be reached.